Development of primitive tribal groups

263. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain tribal communities who still belong to pre-agricultural level of technology and economic backwardness with declining trend have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken under the Programme for Development of primitive tribal group to uplift them and bring them in the main stream of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has identified 75 communities among scheduled tribes as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), in 17 States and 1 Union Territory, who have declining or stagnant or semi-stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-argicultural level of technology and subsistence level of economy.

(c) The Ministry has been implementing an exclusive 100% Central Sector Scheme *viz.* "Development of Primitive Tribal Groups" since 1998-99 for overall development of PTGs through State Governments and NGOs. It is a very flexible scheme. Any activity/ work, which is very crucial for the survival, protection and development of PTGs, can be taken up under the scheme. The activities/works may include provisions for housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development, income generation programmes, health-care, infrastructure development, social security, etc. 4.29 lakh PTG families are also covered for death and injury risks under the Janshree Bima Yojana.

Facilities to tribals in Dantewara district

264. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tribals in far off villages in the Dantewara district of Chhattisgarh are denied educational and health care facilities; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has reported that such a situation does not exist.

(b) Does not arise.

National Tribal Policy

265. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a National Tribal Policy for social and economic development of tribals;

(b) if so, the essential features of the policy; and

(c) the details as to the distinction between the policy and the recently passed legislation to protect Forest Rights of the tribals?